

# WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

## FOR ROCK/SOUTHWESTERN WISCONSIN COUNTIES

### OCTOBER 2001



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Workforce Development

Note: This publication, *Workforce Observations*, replaces the *Labor Market Review*, which was previously known as the *Employment Review*.

## Rates Rise with Manufacturing Layoffs

### September Labor Scene

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the **Janesville/Beloit Metropolitan Area** increased in September to 6.1 percent, up one percent from the revised August figure of 5.1 percent.

The size of the increase in the Janesville/Beloit Metro rate is at least partly attributable to short term layoffs in the medium duty truck line at General Motors. In addition, there were spot layoffs at General Motors in September due to temporary parts shortages. Layoffs at General Motors create a ripple effect for other Rock County employers. Employers that produce products for use in the manufacturing process at General Motors may layoff workers because General Motors does not need goods and materials during shutdowns.

In Rock County, as well as in the rest of the state and nation, manufacturing production and employment has been slowing for a number of months. Over 26 percent of workers in Rock County, work in the manufacturing industry. Statewide the percent of workers working in manufacturing is 21 percent, and nationally its 14 percent. During times of economic slowdown, the manufacturing industry is one of the first to be hit with layoffs. With Rock County's preponderance in manufacturing, it stands to reason that current unemployment rates in Rock County would be higher than current state or national rates.

The unadjusted unemployment rate for the six county Southwestern Wisconsin area also increased, up 0.2 percentage points as compared to August. However, three of six Southwest counties reported declines in their unadjusted unemployment rates, and Lafayette County's rate was unchanged. Rock County's increase was large enough to pull the six county rate up despite declines in three of six counties. Rock County has just

over 50 percent of the six county area's workforce. Despite an economy that is declining in some sectors, four out of six counties in the area have more nonfarm jobs this September, as compared to last September. The area has gained 1,750 jobs in the last year.

### Statewide

The state's seasonal unemployment rate declined in September by 0.3 percentage points. The rate was up 0.4 percentage points as compared to last September. Wisconsin workers and firms continue to experience softness in the manufacturing sectors, especially in the highly cyclical durable goods sector. Since last September, there has been a loss of 27,100 jobs in manufacturing, and 21,900 of the lost jobs have been in the more volatile durable goods manufacturing sector. Manufacturing jobs decreased by 6,100 since August. It is not out of the norm to see a loss of manufacturing jobs between August and September, but this year's loss was higher than August-September losses recorded in the past few years.

### National Bits

The national seasonal unemployment rate was unchanged in September, at 4.9 percent. The 4.9 percent reading in September was up by a one percent as compared to last September.

National manufacturing output declined for the 12th straight month in September, the first time that manufacturing output has declined in 12 straight months since 1946.

Existing home sales declined by 11.7 percent in September. A decline in sales was expected, but most analysts were surprised by the magnitude of the decline.

Labor Force Estimates (Seasonally Adjusted)			
	Janesville-Beloit MSA	Wisconsin (000s)	United States (000s)
<b>Current month: September 2001</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	82.9	3,049.9	142,190
Employment	77.8	2,927.2	135,181
Unemployment	5.1	122.7	7,009
Unemployment rate	6.1%	4.0%	4.9%
<b>Change from August 2001</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	1.3	0.9	840
Employment	0.4	8.5	788
Unemployment	1.0	-7.6	52
Unemployment rate	1.0%	-0.3%	0.0%
<b>Change from September 2000</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	4.2	90.5	1,343
Employment	2.7	72.9	-129
Unemployment	1.5	17.6	1,472
Unemployment rate	1.5%	0.4%	1.0%

Note: All estimates are preliminary and based on place of residence.

**Labor Force and Employment Estimates for Rock / Southwestern Wisconsin (not seasonally adjusted)**

**September 2001**

	Grant	Green	Iowa	Lafayette	Richland	Rock	Region	Wisconsin
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	24,800	19,500	14,400	7,600	8,600	82,400	157,300	3,038,934
<b>Annual Percent Change</b>	<b>3.2%</b>	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>5.2%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>4.6%</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
Employed	23,900	18,900	14,100	7,300	8,400	77,900	150,500	2,935,948
Unemployed	900	600	400	300	300	4,500	6,800	102,986
Unemployment rate(%)	3.6%	3.0%	2.5%	3.5%	3.0%	5.4%	4.3%	3.4%

**Non-Farm Place of Work Employment Data**

<b>Total, all industries**</b>	18,820	16,000	11,510	3,620	6,010	72,920	128,880	2,857,000
<b>Annual Growth Rate:</b>	<b>-0.77%</b>	<b>1.26%</b>	<b>2.13%</b>	<b>-0.82%</b>	<b>3.12%</b>	<b>1.82%</b>	<b>1.37%</b>	<b>0.04%</b>
Construction & Mining	900	530	620	130	230	3,290	5,700	137,700
Manufacturing	2,840	3,460	730	570	1,630	19,160	28,390	591,300
Durable	1,800	2,310	640	340	1,300	14,210	20,590	352,700
Nondurable	1,040	1,150	100	230	330	4,950	7,800	238,600
Trans & Public Utilities	620	420	360	210	190	3,260	5,070	137,900
Wholesale Trade	840	640	380	310	190	3,500	5,850	137,500
Retail Trade	3,640	4,280	5,890	590	1,330	14,150	29,870	502,200
FIRE	770	400	160	220	190	2,020	3,750	152,500
Services	4,020	4,310	1,890	450	1,010	18,770	30,450	793,100
Government	5,200	1,960	1,470	1,140	1,250	8,780	19,790	404,800

**Change from August 2001**

<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	300	-100	-100	-300	-300	200	-300	-42,489
Employed	400	-100	-100	-300	-200	-300	-600	-23,630
Unemployed	-100	0	0	0	0	500	300	-18,859
Unemployment rate(%)	-0.6%	-0.1%	-0.2%	0.0%	-0.3%	0.6%	0.2%	-0.6%
<b>Total, all industries**</b>	800	290	200	-10	-20	420	1,660	3,200
Construction & Mining	-40	-30	-20	-10	-20	-70	-190	-2,560
Manufacturing	0	-60	-30	-10	-100	-270	-460	-6,100
Durable	0	-40	-20	0	-40	-220	-330	-3,700
Nondurable	0	-10	0	-10	-60	-50	-130	-2,400
Trans & Public Utilities	60	10	10	10	20	80	200	3,400
Wholesale Trade	-60	0	-10	0	0	-140	-220	-1,900
Retail Trade	-10	80	190	-10	-30	10	230	-4,700
FIRE	-10	0	0	0	-10	-20	-60	-1,000
Services	0	80	-40	-10	-10	330	340	-7,700
Government	860	210	90	20	140	500	1,820	23,800

**Change from September 2000**

<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	800	800	700	300	400	4,000	7,000	87,374
Employed	600	700	700	300	500	2,700	5,500	71,154
Unemployed	200	100	100	0	0	1,300	1,400	16,220
Unemployment rate(%)	0.5%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	-1.2%	1.4%	0.8%	0.4%
<b>Total, all industries**</b>	-140	200	240	-30	180	1,300	1,750	1,000
Construction & Mining	40	-10	20	0	10	-40	20	-1,400
Manufacturing	-550	-180	-20	-30	-30	-170	-990	-27,100
Durable	-590	-50	-10	-60	-20	110	-630	-21,900
Nondurable	40	-140	0	20	-10	-280	-360	-5,100
Trans & Public Utilities	-40	-20	10	-10	30	20	0	1,900
Wholesale Trade	-60	-60	20	10	0	80	-20	-2,100
Retail Trade	160	280	10	10	10	320	780	1,500
FIRE	50	0	0	10	-10	60	90	3,300
Services	80	230	170	10	60	930	1,480	16,300
Government	200	-40	20	-30	130	120	380	8,500

\* Includes participants residing in area. \*\* Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted.  
Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding.

**Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: [WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI](http://WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI)**

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